MODERN TIMES

New Haven 20¢

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UFW In Struggle

L.M.F.

One of eighty supporters of the UFW who attended a memorial service in New Haven for Juan de la Cruz and Nagi Daifullah, two strikers killed last month. See page 3 for story.

The Tired Old Song Of a Dull Campaign

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff
News Analysis

New Haven's major parties have made their nominations for the office of Mayor: John Esposito for the Republicans and incumbent Bartholomew Guida for the Democrats. The candidates show little promise for an interesting campaign or for any improvements in running the city.

Esposito, who is on leave as principal of Troup Middle School is a relative unknown. Guida, who has been New Haven's Mayor for the last four years is also unknown.

It seems to be a foregone conclusion that Guida will run away with the election and we will be in for another two years of the same thing. It's hard to say what the same thing is. We have lived with years of silence on problems in education, taxes, unemployment, racism, transportation, daycare... an endless list.

Love-Feast?

The Democratic nominating convention on August 21, was described as a "love-feast." All the feuding factions of the local party- "reformers" (black and white), labor, Dick Lee, and Arthur Barbieri- were all there together smiling at each other. Since 1968 there have been New Haven primaries for delegates to conventions, seats on the Democratic Town Committee, State Representatives and Senators and for Mayor. Each primary, although representing some new ideas and programs, also attempted to chip away at some of the power of Arthur Barbieri over New Haven politics.

The Democratic convention was more for Barbieri than for soon to be re-elected Guida. Very little was mentioned of any accomplishments of the Democrats and Guida in governing New Haven. All of the factions of the party will "support" Guida not because of his programs, but because there is no one else to support. The reform Democrats in the city including such people as former mayoral candidate Henry Parker and 18th Ward Chairman Thayer Baldwin were involved in a search last spring for an alternative candidate for Guida. They came up empty handed- for a candidate, money and political base.

Factions Look to 1974

The important issue at stake was not this year's election but next year's contest for the gubernatorial nomination. Maintaining a strong identification with the Democratic Party and cordial relations with Barbieri was probably judged by different factions to be the best route in building a base for the future and for having some influence over New Haven's delegation to *the state nominating convention next year.*

On the organized side, there is no great love between the New Haven Central Labor Council and the Mayor's office. Guida systematically ignores consultation with Labor Council President Sirabella in appointing labor representatives to city commissions. Yet Sirabella's presence at the convention possibly signals a renewed relation with Barbieri, totally sidestepping the Mayor's office. In addition, Barbieri was to be a main speaker at Sirabella's testimony last June but was ill, Barbieri's speaking spot was filled by Joe Duffey.

Sirabella, in his short speech at the convention did not mention Guida but talked of the promise of the Democratic party for working people.

Horse Lovers Missing the Point

by Clap Trap

There are certain things in this world, in this life, which are indubitably provocative——which arouse in people varying degrees of near-hysterical reactions. The idea, or act, of abortion, or homosexuality, for instance, is enough to evoke violence in some people and sheer cruelty (albeit through the "proper" channels) in others. The left wing incites the right, the right wing inflames the left, and the bird takes off, borne away on several wafts of righteous principle.

But do you know what's really provocative? Horsemeat!

Yes, folks, horsemeat will do it every time. People will argue about it, parade about it, and make statements like this about it.

As the accompanying article suggests, there apparently is no contradiction between male chauvinism and the consumption of the cow, only the horse! But with Nixon economics horsemeat stores like the one above will probably be with us for some time.

Horsemeat Sales Stir People

About ten days ago a horsemeat store opened up in my neighborhood (Chapel Street by Norton). At the soonest hint that such a thing might occur, the neighborhood divided on stringent pro and con lines. Many people thought that the idea of eating a horse was disgusting, and equated it with the eating of their favorite pets, cats and dogs and such. Pets. Now, I have a theory about all this involvement which, on one level or another, is guaranteed to have a lot of readers champing at the bit.

I am of the belief that many people, usually those on the middle or upper economic strata, find the killing of horses for human consumption to be repugnant for the following reasons: 1) because it is indicative of poverty, is an eating habit of those who have no other resourse; 2) because man has identified with the horse (check the metaphor used in the previous paragraph), and invested it with certain of the more "noble" human characteristics such as beauty, grace, intelligence, so that killing a horse and eating it becomes something approximating cannabalism.

Cow, No — Horse, Yes

A cow is an ugly beast, unattractive, smelly, stupid; it is permissable, perhaps even desirable, to dispose of such an unattractive animal, and even better to use it to our advantage. Cows have given rise to the epithet "an old cow." The horse, on the other hoof, has provided a different kind of metaphor, applied to young women; they can be called "fillies", or "have legs like a colt's" (meaning long and slender), or be "skittish" (attractively nervous and/or boisterous).

I think that another, deeply subconscious reason, why people, both male and female, object so violently to the eating of horse flesh is that in some way, very subtly, the horse has become aligned with the female, the beautiful female, in their minds. And that, therefore, the eating of a horse is tantamount not only to the cannabalism of their fellow man,

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On The Job page 8

Tight Fisted Feds Endanger HSC Program

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

High School in the Community, an alternative public high school in New Haven, is beginning its fourth year of operation with reduced federal funds. At the same time, the New Haven Board of Education, last month rejected an idea for a new alternative program, an "urban institute," drawn up by the Yale Center for the Study of Education in cooperation with the superintendent's office.

HSC Funds Slashed

Over the past two years, High School in the Community (HSC) has had an enrollment of 320 students divided into two units of 160. Because of a mandate from Superintendent Barbarito, coupled with cuts in federal funding, the enrollment for the current year will only be 280 students.

HSC is funded by the city, state and federal governments. The federal funds were cut by $30,000 for next year as part of Nixon's witholding of money. Nixon's freeze stopped money for schools in the midst of operation last year. These projects have been eliminated for this coming year, but the funding agency had to pick up money from other projects such as HSC to cover the operating costs until the end of June. Most federally supported alternate schools have either been dropped or cut by up to one third.

Urban Institute

The urban institute, as described by the Center for the Study of Education would have been a highly structured alternate school for New Haven. Most special educational programs are either for exceptional students or the dropouts and hell-raisers. The urban institutue was designed for the students who proceed along, earn C-grades but learn nothing.

One of the designers of the urban institute was motivated to write the proposal by the poor quality of New Haven's public schools and the high cost he incurs ($2,100/year) to send his son to a private school The Board of Education was so down on the idea of alternate education that the urban institute is essentially dead.

Although HSC has never had any real support of encouragement from the New Haven Board of Education, it has provided a new and exciting high school experience for students and teachers over the past few years. The student enrollment includes a wide range of academic abilities (from non-readers to students taking college courses) and covers almost every New Haven neighborhood.

Community Involvement Stressed

HSC offers students the opportunity to participate in both highly structured and disciplined programs and fairly loose, independently guided courses of study. A major part of the school is a Community Orientation Program where students take "courses" all over the city. Community placements have included hospitals, day care centers, radio stations, newspapers, architects, city agencies, and the Nature Center.

HSC gives students a sense of their value to themselves and to their community. Students are treated with respect and understanding and return the same in relationships with the staff.

HSC is located in two centers: First Methodist Church, 425 College St. and the Dixwell Community House, 197 Dixwell Avenue.

Matt Borenstein

Students at the High School in the Community find a few minutes to relax.

New Teachers Meet For Orientation

Matt Borenstein

New teachers to the New Haven school system are shown here listening to a presentation of problems and expectations of the coming school year.

Check Out Your Children's Schools

by Ruth Hein

When you go to your child's school early in the fall, your main reason is to meet the teachers, to let them know that you are around and that you are sympathetic. But the visit can do much more: it gives you a chance to size up the school.

You probably already know a lot about the school before you go there, even if it is your child's first year. (By the way, throughout these articles I am talking only about elementary schools; in a couple of years, when my kids get older, I'll know more about upper schools). Neighbors, friends, older children will have spread the word. Your own first impression will tell you important things as well.

Exterior of Building Yields Clues

Your information starts before you ever enter the builidng. Is the sidewalk littered? Is the fence torn or rusty? What is the schoolyard like—is the play ground in good condition, or is it used as a parking lot for teachers? Are the windows broken and taped in places, and are the walls covered with graffiti? When children vandalize their own school, you can be pretty sure there's something wrong about the way the place is run.

Once inside, are the hallways clean and cheerful, or is the plaster falling off the walls? Are there bulletin boards, and are they covered with fairly recent, interesting stuff? (Does it look likethe kids decorated the bulletin boards, or are they displays of the teachers' egos). As you get near the lavatories, are there suspicious smells? What kinds of sounds are coming from the classrooms? (Happy murmurings -- busy-beehive noises -- are a good sign; hysterical shrieks, whether the childrens or the teachers', are a definite no no).

Check Principal's Attitude

When you get to the office, is the principal pleased to see you? Does she or he take the time to talk to you, perhaps over coffee, in an informal way? Or does he/she rush out to warn the teacher that you're on your way? Does she/he tense up when you make it clear that you're here to visit your child's class? Does he/she complain to you about the children or the teachers? (the last is really unpardonable, but it rarely ever happens).

Remember, as you enter the classroom, that different teachers work in different ways; neat rows of desks, silent children, empty windowsills, are not necessarily signs of a happy and productive classroom; on the other hand I suppose they aren't absolute proof of dullness and lack of creativity. Do the children seem active, cheerful, busy? Or are they simply being obedient?

Are there enough books, paper, pencils to go around? Is there a classroom library and can the children help themselves to books? What about a science corner, fish tank, gerbil cage? Is the children's work posted?

How Teacher Relates to Children

Is the teacher friendly and respectful to the children, or is the room more like Marine boot camp? How would you feel if you were a student in that room? Chances are, the kids feel the same way.

When you talk to the teacher, it's a good idea to ask, "What do you feel you need most to help you do your job:" Most teachers will tell you that they do not need anything; this is a sign primarily that they are a little afraid of you, not secure enough to speak up. Such teachers need a lot of reassurance. Others may reply that the children need more attention at home; this is a dead give-away of an inadequate teacher, one with little understanding of children or the realities of life. Keep an eye on this one. The best answer goes straight to the question-- perhaps "We'd love to take some field trips, but there's no money in the budget," or, "I wish the school system would give me some in-service training in special areas." Once a teacher can level with you like that, you've got it made -- the two of you have set up a partnership. You can talk together like respecting equals about your child, you can work together to improve the school.

Note: Most of the ideas for this article were taken from Ellen Lurie's valuable book, *How to Change the Schools* (Vintage paperback, $2.95).

UFW Struggling For Survival

by John Flannelly
Modern Times Staff

The UFW is at another crossroad. Last week the Teamsters, to everyone's surprise, repudiated thirty contracts with the Delano Valley grape growers who signed them up in early August.

At first, the reaction was one of jubilation, the immediate assessment falsely attributing the Teamsters' move to a general abandonment of their drive to break the UFW's hold on the Californian farm workers. A calmer reaction, however, followed Cesar Chavez's announcement that although it was a victory, it was a minor one, for the Teamsters are still committed to the eventual takeover of the whole of the farm workers' movement. He reiterated the necessity to continue the boycott of lettuce and grapes.

In New Haven

George Sheridan, the UFW representative in Connecticut, spoke in New Haven on Thursday, August 23, in front of the U. S. Post Office at a memorial service for the two slain farm workers (one of whom was shot and the other beaten to death). The service was sad, somber, but the mood of those who attended reflected quiet determination—everyone seemed to be aware that the struggle was really important and had to be sustained. "Juan de la Cruz and Nagi Daifullah," it was said, "were poor men who asked only the right to improve their living and working conditions through a union of their own choice."

Sheridan later emphasized the desperate straits in which the UFW presently finds itself. The 1.6 million strike fund provided by the AFL-CIO is totally depleted; strigent restrictions on picketing rights placed upon the strikers by court order (no loudspeakers, a limit of one picket per ranch entrance, a requirement forcing strikers to stand a hundred feet apart, etc.) have rendered mass action almost ineffectual. The shortage of funds, he said, can only be remedied by an outpouring of support from those in sympathy with the UFW cause. Donations can be sent to: United Farm Workers, 1915 Park St., Hartford, Conn. 06106, or United Farm Workers, 17 Belmont St., Hamden, Conn. As for the tactical difficulties the strike seems to be encountering (especially the accompanying violence), he reported that Cesar Chavez is shifting the focus of the strike (both to protect the lives of the strikers and to educate the public) to the boycott. To this end, Chavez hopes to send some strikers into the cities to help explain the purposes and objectives of the boycott. To reduce the potential for violence, he has requested federal intervention, in the form of U.S. marshals, from Attorney General Eliot Richardson (the precedent of course is the federal protection extended to civil rights marchers in the South). So far the Justice Department has not responded. Sheridan urged all interested supporters to send Richardson either a telegram or a letter—perhaps if enough mail comes in, something might be done.

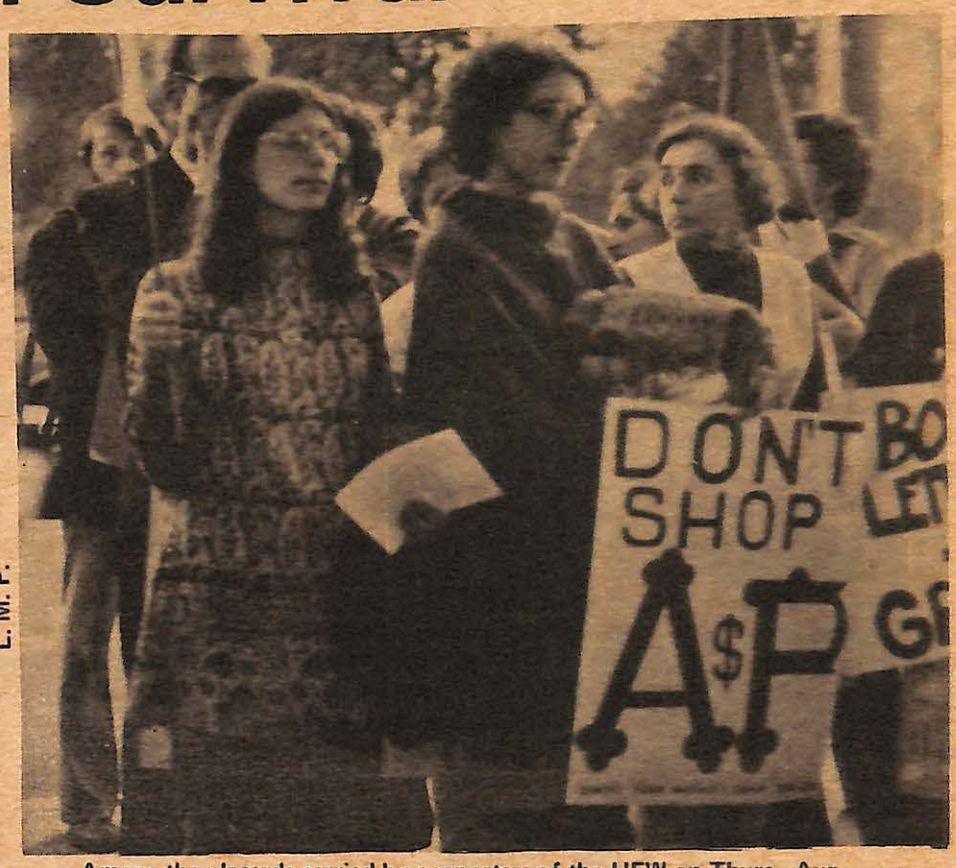
The Nixon Connection

The imponderable in the Teamsters' initiative against the UFW remains: Why? Some have suggested that it is in payment for White House favors, that the Western leadership of the Teamsters is doing Nixon's bidding. He hates the UFW and everything it stands for (remember the incident in which he ate grapes on public television at the height of the 1970 boycott, laughing while doing so no less)

There are two items of interest in this connection, both of which were mentioned by Sheridan. The first concerns a memo written by Nixon to one of his aides, Colson, instructing him to use whatever means available to the White House staff "to get" the UFW. The second item is a real shocker, the Committee to Re-elect apparently steered $10,000 into the hands of the American Nazi Party for the establishment of a branch in Southern California, the strategy being to blunt somehow the Wallace threat—it failed. In any case, the ten thousand was later released to hire "goons" from the ranks of the Nazis to harass UFW strikers. The springs of Watergate are running deep!

One thing that deserves to be mentioned in this whole affair, and that Sheridan himself was quick to point out, is that many of the rank and file Teamsters do not endorse the policies of the leadership vis-a-vis the UFW, and that most of the "goons" hired by that leadership are not Teamsters themselves.

By the way, if you drink wine, buy either Almeden or Christian Bros.—they're the only wineries that have so far re-signed with the UFW.



L. M. F.

Among the placards carried by supporters of the UFW on Thurs., Aug. 23, this one urges the boycott of A & P, which sells non-union grapes and lettuce.

Labor Notes

Where is the Bread Going?

Of the 1.7 billion bushels of wheat expected this year, about 1.1 billion will be shipped abroad. One bread manufacturer predicted that the price of bread might zoom to $1 per loaf by the end of the year. You can't even live on bread alone anymore.

You Might Also Have to go Naked

Not only is a good deal of the bread leaving the country, but also an increased amount of raw cotton is finding its way to Europe and Japan. Exports of cotton and wool have jumped 40% over the last year. This alone would push up the price of clothing. But under phase four guidelines American companies can pass this increased cost of raw materials directly to the consumer.

Save the Dollar

These increased exports are doing great things for the dollar abroad and the imbalance of payments. American companies are getting nice profits with export tax breaks and a devalued dollar to give them a competitive edge over European and Japanese products. At the same time we pay higher prices and suffer artificial food shortages.

Confusion in the Supermarket

Are you confused by all the products you see on supermarket shelves? In 1972 the average supermarket added 1,154 items. But don't let that worry you. During the same year, supermarkets discontinued 729 items including many of the new ones. Did you miss any of those discontinued items? They might have been one of the 100 different brands of heavy duty detergents or the 55 national brands of ready-to-eat breakfast cereals.

BLS Publications

Consumer Price Index--Monthly report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) that provides data on changes in the cost of living over the past year.(Free on request).

Employment and Earnings--Monthly report with information on average hourly earnings for manufacturing in each state and most larger cities. ($10 per year).

Area Wage Survey--Reports published separately for some 88 cities each year on wages paid certain clerical, maintenance and laborer type occupations. ($.35 to $.50 each).

Industry Wage Survey-- Periodic detailed wage and fringe benefit data for specific industries. Information is provided on jobs common to that industry. ($1 to $1.50 each).

Union Wage Scales -- Quarterly report on union building trades scales in 100 large cities and annually in construction, printing, local transit and local trucking. (Free).

Current Wage Development--A monthly report on recent collective bargaining settlements with a short summar; of wage and benefit changes. ($4.50 per year).

--The above publications can be obtained by writing the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Press releases are available rom the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20210.

East Haven Cafe Workers Give Strike Notice to Board

Modern Times Staff

The union representing East Haven's school cafeteria workers announced today that its members have voted 20-1 to authorize a strike against the East Haven Board of Education, and also charged that the Board's revised lunch program "will make it totally impossible for the workers to properly serve decent food to the children."

There are three key issues according to John Wilhelm, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 271, Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union. They are wages in which East Haven's cafeteria workers are woefully behind other East Haven employees as well as other unionized area cafeterias; fringe benefits and especially insurance, in which the cafeteria employees have the worst coverage in town; and working conditions."

The cafeteria employees have three major proposals in the area of working conditions: that the Board agree to cover all cafeteria workers in the contract, regardless of hours; that every employee be guaranteed some minimum number of hours daily so long as lunches are being served; and that the Board has the right to lay off employees unilaterally if business decreases, and if the Board wants to cut the work force with the same amount of business this will be negotiated with the Union.

Wilhelm said the overwhelming secret ballot vote Last Monday authorized the cafeteria workers' negotiating committee to call a strike "at any time, should our efforts to reach a settlement continue to be fruitless."

The committee consists of cafeteria workers Jean Olinsky, Jennie DeAngelo, Francis Emielita, and Marie Fafard, and union officials Wilhelm and Frank R. Annunziato.

Board Intractable

The spokesman for Local 217, which

see Strike, page 6

Editorial

Peace Is 'People's Business'

President Nixon's new ploy in trying to re-do his image is to tell us sternly to stop dwelling on Watergate and get back to the "business of the people." Well we are the people and we never forgot our business. And one item of business still on our minds is war in Indochina.

What will Nixon do when Lon Nol's puppet government falls? Most of the planes and crews that dropped more bombs on the Cambodians in six months than were dropped on the Japanese in all of World War II remain at their Southeast Asian bases. Aerial spying missions over Cambodia continue. And the pilots themselves don't think the U.S. is really out of the air war for good - as one officer said, "I'll have to wait and see tomorrow's flight schedule." The war is not over and American interference- temporarily in the form of ever-ready and fully-armed "observation " continues.

Remove the temptation, Mr. Nixon. Bring home all the planes and all the Americans. Stop aid to Lon Nol and Thieu. There's plenty to do right here in America without staying involved in other people's business.

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MODERN TIMES welcomes all comments and letters to the editors.

MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on **MODERN TIMES** is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions from the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get this kind of news from profit-making commercial papers. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working men and women are told by them instead of their bosses. There is no place else where the problems of employment and education, and housing and health care are told by the people who have to live with them.

This is the richest country in the world. Yet most of the wealth is used only by a few. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. There would be no need to strike for paltry raises, waste our resources and labor on missiles and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need, not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the vested interests that run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care, and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Ed Breuler, Danny Cahn, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, John Flannelly, Art Fleischner, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Stanley Heller, Liz Henderson, Nick Heyer, Eileen Hoffman, Lynn Karsten, Karl Lechow, Alice Mick, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Pat Sandacata, Bob Sherry, Dave Spinner, Henry Tamarin, Sergio Verillo, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff.

All Uphill

Open Line
The Uprooted Presidency

by John Flannelly
Modern Times Staff

One characteristic of Nixon's reign of misrule which is seldom mentioned by established commentators is its lack of a commitment to place. Traditionally, the seat of government has been the place from which the ruler (king, prime minister, president) has overseen the affairs of state, and as such has symbolized stability.

It is reported that Nixon has been spending less than a fourth of his time in Washington, the rest of it being taken up with prolonged visits to his various retreats (San Clemente, Key Biscayne, the Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, and Camp David). The manner in which this beloved leader flits about from one of these places to another, without rhyme or reason, suggests a man overburdened by rootlessness. For we all know that moving establishes the illusion of progress, of control, that moving for the sake of moving is a form of neurotic behavior, that the inability to sit still, to stay in one place, is a manifestation of profound insecurity.

Nixon is, and Nixon has always been, the huckster on the move, knowing no past, no future, feeding on the excitement of the moment. Perhaps it all comes of the cultural and social instability of Southern California. Who knows? The point is, America is being governed by a man who values nothing, who has no sense of tradition, no sense of what it means to be committed to the long-term interests of a community, any community. The sentimental slop of Nixon's reminiscences of hearth and home ought to remind us that he who mythologizes the past is invariably someone who has no need for the future. If anything, Nixon is a man of the present, consuming it like a TV dinner, wolfing it down between commercials.

Write On

To the Editor:

We're living in a dictatorship where human rights belong only to those with money.

Working people, who actually produce all the wealth in this country, have little or no money, therefore have little or no rights.

Corporations, on the other hand, who do not produce any wealth at all, reap money from the workers in such high volumes that it gives them, not only all kinds of rights, but also all the say-so on what products are to be made, what wars are to be fought, how people should live, and how the system should function.

When an ordinary worker violates even a minor law or ordinance, the law usually throws the book at him.

Whereas the giant monopolies, who are robbing the public blind, in clear violation of the Sherman anti-trust laws, not only do not get prosecuted, but get special White House favors to help them rob the American people with even more efficiency.

A system that pays corporation farms to NOT GROW crops; that allows millions of day-old chicks to be deliberately killed by farmers to maintain high prices; that allows food speculators to rake in money like it's going out of style; that allows corporations to manufacture shoddy products that are deliberately engineered for obsolescence; that allows corporations to drive workers at a killing pace and through forced overtime to produce mountains of waste that devour natural resources and pollute the planet; that taxes workers to the hilt while the rich laugh their heads off; that goes begging to the public for money to fight diseases; that forces the public to eat foods contaminated with poisons concocted by greedy processers, and that encourages racism and sexism is not simply inhuman, but outright criminal.

Where this kind of criminal activity is the norm or guideline for "success" and where anyone with a conscience or even an ounce of human compassion is a sure mark for failure, then it's not surprising that the types that are bound to rise to the top, like scum on a polluted lake, are the tricky types.

Sincerely,

Mike F. Holodnak

Tricksters Rise

Pieces

I am sitting, sewing
when the news comes on the radio.
A voice informs me that the bombing of Cambodia
has ceased.
A tape of Senator Goldwater
reciting his belief in the Domino Theory
is then played.

I am walking down a street in the center of town
on my way home.
I pass the construction site of what will soon be an art gallery,
devoted solely to British art
of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
There are a lot of men
crawling around in the sun,
pounding and bending things with their hands.
They often pause, and whistle at passing women
who are usually annoyed.

As I write
the cat jumps on my lap.
It is late, and I welcome such intrusion.
He is overjoyed when I scratch his ear
and crumple some paper
for him to play with.

(There is no British art.
Cambodia is a small colored space on a map.
The women are not really annoyed.

Dominoes is a game played by children and old men.
How does it feel to be under a bomb.
The dress is almost finished.

I can bleed a mile a minute on this machine,
anytime.

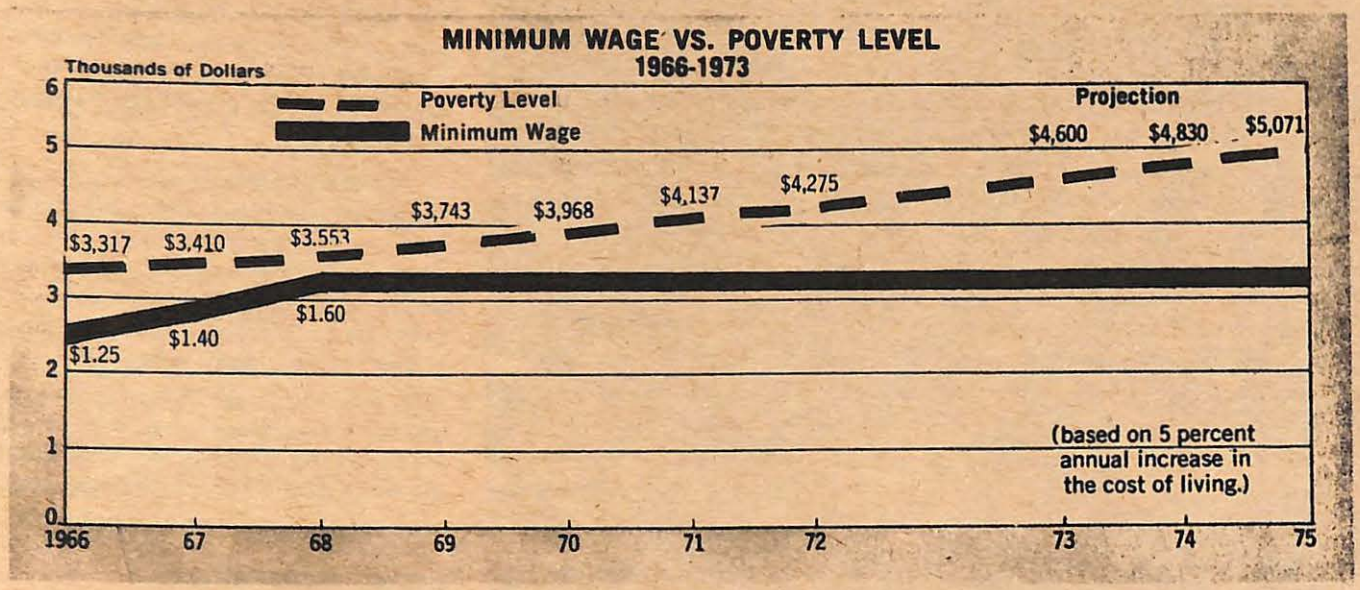
--Emily Davidson (copyright, 1973)

MinimumWageIncreases,BuyingPowerDeclines

by Ken Stokes

Large numbers of American workers continue to earn less than poverty wages. In Fair Haven, for example, 16% of all families, 37% of Black families, and 47% of Spanish-speaking families earned less than $3,500 in 1970.

It is in this atmosphere that Congress has just voted to lower the minimum wage. This may seem to contradict the press releases announcing a "raise" from $1.60 an hour to $2.00. But in the face of a 34% increase in prices since 1966, the last year the minimum wage was raised, that's what's happening: the effective minimum wage is going down.



Legislation Still in Doubt

And the raise may not become a reality. The minimum wage legislation, which would extend protection to government, chain store, and domestic workers for the first time, cleared both houses of Congress before the current recess. But, anticipating a presidential veto, the bill has been shelved until Congress reconvenes after Labor Day. The AFL-CIO also wants an immediate increase next of the minimum wage to $2.50 an hour. This might keep the lowest paid workers just above the poverty level.

The 1973 bill already represents a modest political achievement; the 1972 bill didn't even make it through Congress. Nixon's veto, however, looms large. The White House would like to see the passage of a bill which would include the "McDonald Plan," a separate minimum wage 20% lower for teenage workers. The McDonald's hamburger chain, employing 80,000 teenagers and whose chairman, R. A. Kroc, contributed $250,000 to the Nixon campaign last year, has been actively campaigning for this version of the bill. It would keep teenagers at the current minimum wage of $1.60 an hour, and could save the McDonald corporation as much as $32 million a year in labor costs: an enormous return on a political investment.

The White House argues that such a bill would encourage the hiring of teenagers, currently facing high unemployment rates—13% for Whites and 30% for Blacks (in Fair Haven, it is 25%), and would keep down price increases. But as one labor journal put it, "if the Administration were logical, it would be proposing a sub-minimum for Black workers and another sub-minimum for veterans. The Black teenage unemployment rate is higher than the overall rate for teenagers. So why not a separate minimum for Black teenagers, lower, of course, than for White teenagers?"

A Worker Is a Worker

Organized labor, which succeeded in steering the conventional minimum wage through Congress this year, counters that a worker is a worker, and that cheaper teenage labor might take jobs away from other workers.

Nevertheless, a separate minimum wage will remain for two categories of workers. The minimum wage for most retail and service workers would increase from $1.60 to $1.80 an hour, and agricultural workers would receive an increase from $1.30 to $1.60 an hour.

But as discriminatory as this may be, the crux of the issue is that the real wages wages of American workers are going down. In 1966 the minimum wage was 62.5% of the average hourly earnings of all private non-agricultural workers. In 1973, if the "raise" becomes law, the minimum will be 52.1% of the average wage.

More important than either price increases or a declining position in the wage structure, however, is the standard of living that the minimum wage represents. Does the new minimum wage indicate significant progress for the labor movement in America? Hardly! Two dollars an hour (roughly $4,000 a year) is, of course, barely poverty wages, defined by the Department of Labor as $3,500 a year (which, incidentally, hasn't been raised to reflect price changes either!).

Food Shortages Deliberate Government Policy

by Rick Wolff

The Government has decided that the way to solve the international economic mess -- the declining dollar and the declining power of the U.S. abroad -- is, to put it simply, a matter of getting most Americans to eat less. That is Washington's plan. These are the reasons why.

First of all, the U.S. economy has got to find something to sell to the rest of the world. To be more exact, the U. S. must offer something for sale to the Europeans and Japanese who own so many dollars. Right now, they don't see enough in the U.S. that they want to buy, so they are nervous about the dollars they keep piling up because Americans buy so much from them.

And when they are nervous about their dollars, they start unloading them, trying to ditch the dollar and in the process the dollar sinks in value (the so-called devaluation).

That is a big part of the international economic problem of the U.S. The big question in Washington is: "What's wrong here and what can we do about it?"

A Declining Foreign Trade

What's wrong is basically that foreigners are no longer buying so much from U.S. producers of many types of goods. The foreigners are making their own or buying from companies in other countries who offer the goods at lower prices.

And then there are the millions of Americans buying ever more imported goods instead of their higher-priced home-made competitors. In Washington, the cry went up, "What have we got to sell now to the world for all those dollars they have?"

The answer was quickly found to lie in one word: FOOD! Food to feed people and food to feed livestock: these were items very much in demand in Europe and Japan, where prosperity since World War II had put enough incomes in people's pockets to create rapidly rising markets for better foods, meats, dairy items, etc.

Washington also found out that Russia and China seemed to be willing to buy huge quantities of food from time to time. Wheat, beef, pork, soybeans, and corn suddenly seemed to find endless buyers abroad.

Where Would Food Come From?

So far so good, but where was all the food to be sold abroad going to come from? There was no easy, fast way to grow or raise more. For one thing, nature doesn't work so fast. For another, Congress had passed many laws over the years which pleased farmers and won their votes: laws which paid farmers for not producing, thereby reducing farm output in order to keep farm prices and incomes high.

For yet another thing, it takes time to build the extra machines, make the extra fertilizer, set up the extra irrigation equipment and hire the extra workers that are needed to achieve any sizeable increase in food production in the United States.

So a slightly altered solution attracted official favor. "We will get food for bigger sales abroad by reducing the consumption of food inside the United States." Americans, in a word must be made to eat less.

The way to get Americans to eat less was debated in Washington. A few brave souls talked briefly about rationing, as the U.S. did during World War II. Rationing means that each person would receive a card entitling him or her to so much meat, flour, or whatever, depending on their needs. But "need" lost out to money in Washington: the government decided that food should go to those with the money. Rationing by prices was chosen over rationing by need in Washington.

A Type of Rationing

Inflation -- rising food prices -- is nothing other than rationing by prices. American families cutting back on beef and other foods are falling right into line with national policy. Only the higher income people can continue to eat as before. And what the masses of working people and poor people cannot anymore afford to buy, can now be offered to sale abroad.

There are, of course, other reasons for the rapid rise in food and other prices now going on. But if you have wondered why so little is being done about the food price increases, why all the freezes, phases and plans do not seem to work -- the answer lies in the fact that the government really doesn't want them to wrok. They want food prices to rise as a way of "solving" the international economic mess the U.S. is now in.

The big farm companies are very willing to go along with the plan, because the Government is guaranteeing that whatever food they can no longer sell to Americans will find ready buyers abroad.

The other big corporations in the U.S. are very willing to go along because their international business interests require a healthy dollar and because rising food prices won't hurt their high-paid executives and shareholders much anyway.

Workers' Sacrifice

But where does this leave the average wage and salary workers. The government's plan will surely hurt them. They are the ones who are being called upon to make the sacrifice Washington needs to get out of the international mess. How strange and ironic and unjust: the workers who had nothing to do with creating the mess are the ones who have to take it on the chin when it comes to solving the problem.

The corporations whose international expansion over the years has done much to cause the problems need make no sacrifices. No one in Washington, for example, recommends that major U.S. corporations lower their prices by accepting lower profits for themselves. That would solve the problem, since lower prices for U.S. goods would lead more people abroad to buy them.

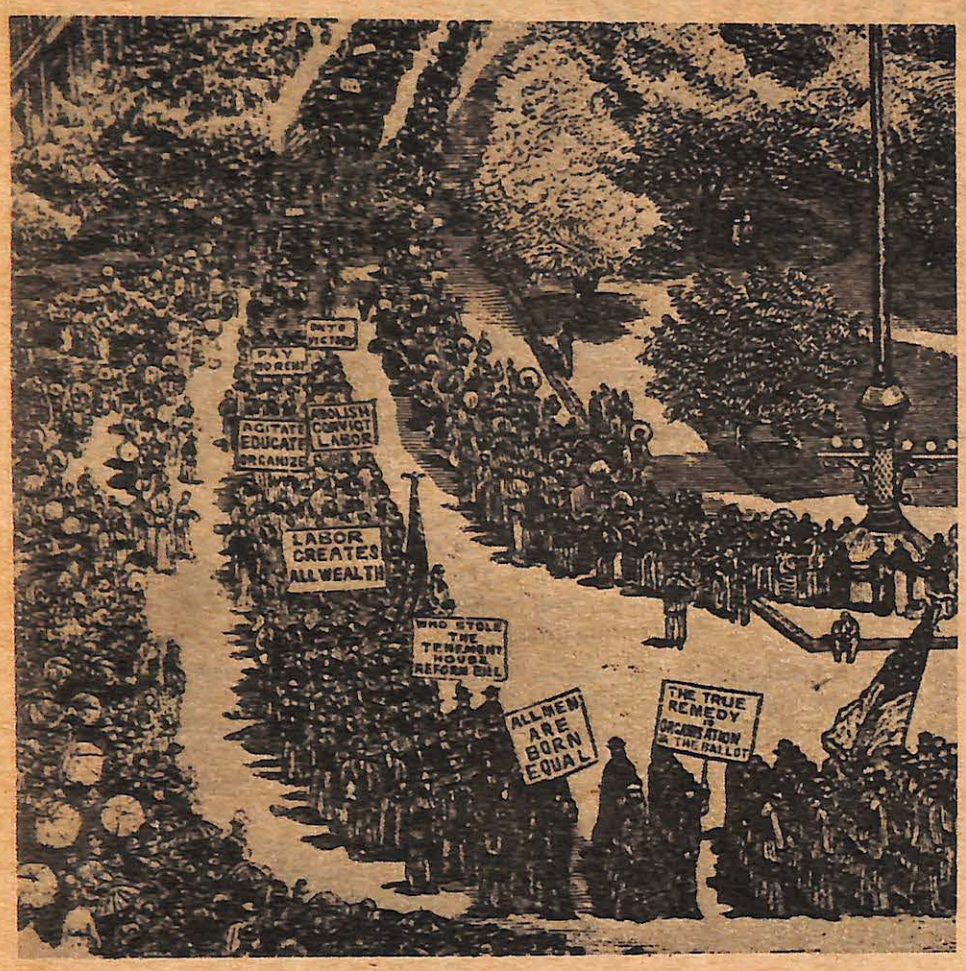
No need then to make American workers eat less. No, then the sacrifices would have to come from the corporations who caused the problems in the first place. They would have to take a period of lower profits, the poor lambs.

To sum up: don't be fooled. The food shortage isn't a shortage at all. It's a set up, which we can maybe beat back if working people put the heat on the government to lower food and other prices now, or quit and make room for those who will.

SUPERMARKET STORM SIGNALS

The big supermarket operators are so concerned about soaring prices and shrinking stocks during the coming months that they plan a private pow-wow to explore ways and means to prevent panic or even riots in their stores. Heads of twenty of the largest food chains will meet to hear economists, public-opinion pollsters and other experts tell them in detail what shortages to expect and what the reactions of their customers may be.

Labor Day Has Roots In History


PAY RENT!
ABOLISH CONVICT LABOR
AGITATE EDUCATE ORGANIZE
LABOR CREATES ALL WEALTH
WHO STOLE THE TENEMENT HOUSE REFORM BILL
ALL MEN ARE BORN EQUAL
THE TRUE REMEDY IS ORGANIZATION AND THE BALLOT

This graphic depicts the great labor celebration of 1882.

from The Union Voice, the organ of the Conn. Union of Tele. Workers

"Labor Day differs in every essential from the other holidays of the year of any country," said Samuel Gompers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor.

"All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day ... is devoted to no man, living or dead; no sect, race, or nation."

Many countries set aside May 1st as a day for the working classes. In the United States, on the first Monday in September the entire nation honors the social and economic achievements of its workers.

Day Was Created By Unions

Labor Day is a creation of the labor movement. The exact moment in history when the workers' parade or demonstration was transformed into a holiday honoring the contributions of labor to the strength and well-being of our country is difficult to pin-point.

A strong case can be made that the great parade and picnic sponsored by the Central Labor Union in New York City on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, differed from earlier demonstrations and marked the first real Labor Day. Between 10,000 and 20,000 workers marched, according to New York newspaper estimates, with additional thousands joining the great picnic and listening to the hours of oratory that followed. In the words of the newspaper Truth, it was "indeed a day of the people."

The success of this event led to another "Festival" on Wednesday, September 5, 1883. In 1884, the New York Central Labor Union declared that the first Monday in September of each year would be Labor Day and asked other central labor unions to follow their example.

That same year both the Knights of Labor and the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions introduced Labor Day resolutions at their conventions. With the growth of the labor movement, the idea spread rapidly and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many American cities.

Through the years Labor Day grew in importance. In 1882 the New York City Board of Aldermen had tendered "to the workingmen their heartfelt and earnest sympathy." Further government recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886.

By 1894 a majority of the states had created a legal holiday in honor of working people, and on June 28 of that year, President Grover Cleveland signed an act of Congress making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday for Federal employees and the District of Columbia and the Territories. What started as a parade and picnic had become a national holiday.

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take was outlined in the first proposal of the holiday--a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. Speeches by prominent men emphasized the economic and civic significance of the holiday.

The widespread acceptance and observance of Labor Day made it a national holiday with the same status as the patriotic and religious holidays whose history and traditions went much further back intothe national life.

The character of the Labor Day celebration has undergone a change because of the problems involved in mass displays and huge parades. This change, however, is more a shift of emphasis and medium of expression. Labor Day addresses of leading union officials, industrialists, educators and clergymen, as well as governmental officials, are given a wide hearing in newspapers and over radio and TV.

It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on this day to the creator of so much ofthis nation's strength, freedom, and leadership--the American worker.

Unionists Sharpen Skills at U Conn

by Frank Annunziato
Modern Times Staff

The Connecticut State Labor Council, in conjunction with the Labor Education Center of the University of Connecticut, conducted a week-long (July 29-August 3) labor school for trade unionists throughout the state.

The school attracted fifteen AFL-CIO members to the U Conn campus at Storrs. The students represented a broad range of unions including steelworkers, carpenters, laborers , hospital workers, teachers, and hotel and restaurant employees.

Classes were held each day from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The classes were informal and covered topics such as collective bargaining, grievances and arbitration, occupational health and safety, labor history and communications within unions. Teachers for these courses were staff members from the Labor Education Center.

Students Stimulated Union Activity

Throughout the week, students worked on special group projects. The class was divided into two ficticious union locals by Saul Nesselroth, staff member for the Center. One group, Local II, worked on a mock project to get legislation passed in the U. S. Congress which would guarantee pensions in the event a company moves or goes out of business. This project was inspired by the loss of such pensions when the CL&R bus company of Bridgeport went out of business last year. The other group, Local 12, took the United Farm Workers struggles in California as their project. Local 12, 'organized' a national March on Delano in support of the Mexican-American unionst. Each Local presented its work to the other Local on the last day of the school. They used various media techniques learned that week in Saul Nesselroth's communications course. These techniques included public speaking, newsletters leaflets, and use of videotape equipment.

National and Local Perspective

John Driscoll, President, and Madeline Matchko, legislative Director of the Connecticut AFL-CIO met with the students and spoke with them about the political role of organized labor. Many questions were asked about labor's neutral stance in the 1972 elections. Driscoll's explanation was that the AFL-CIO leadership was torn between Nixon's anti-labor record and McGovern's anti-Viet Nam position.

A national perspective of the AFL-CIO was given to the students in the person of George Guernsey, assistant director of the Department of Education of the AFL-CIO in Washington. Guernsey spent two days at the school. He talked about his more than thirty years in the labor movement. For many years, Guernsy was director of education for the C.I.O., before the merger with the A.F.L. He stated that labor today has lost much of the excitement of the C.I.O. He cited, however, the Farmworkers, hospital workers, and textile workers in the South, as recapturing the enthusiasm and drama of the great CIO organizing drives in the late 1930's.

He speculated that the labor movement should be self-critical, especially with the lackof minority group and women involvement in the unions. Guernsey said that he did not believe in quota systems to increase *the leadership potential of these groups, but he did think that all trade unionists should* endeavor to include more blacks, Spanish-speaking people, and women in the decision making positions within the "House of Labor".

Critique of School

The last session of the school was an evaluation of the week. Everyone agreed that the school was a worthwhile experience and would recommend it to their fellow union members. However, many students were critical of some of the speakers and felt that they were being "talked down to". Students also stated that they would have liked more written material to read and better organization of the classes which at times seemed to lack direction. The unionists also thought more people should have attended the program, especially more minority group members and women.

Horsemeat

continued from page 1

but more specifically, to the ravaging of their fellow woman.

I was in the neighborhhod grocery store on Saturday morning around eleven o'clock. A group of horse-lovers, replete with horses, had begun to assemble in front of the horsemeat store across the street, wearing signs and distributing leaflets. People in the grocery store were incensed. A man (actually, the butcher), in a loud and angry tone, began to comment on the state of a world in which people eat the flesh of such fine animals. A woman, checking out, remarked that such a thing was truly terrible, and that they might as well cook their cats. She seemed almost physically pained when I reminded her that people have to eat.

Food Necessary For Survival

Exactly. Chicken is seventy cents a pound.

People have to eat, and only those with enough money with which to insulate themselves from the rigors of the world can afford themselves the privilege of dividing the edible kingdom into the "right" and "wrong" things to eat. The rest of us must scramble around making do on whatever we can, or else whatever is left, and, unlike those just mentioned, must forego the luxuries of snails, tripe, brains and certain choices in favor of those foods more mundane, and cheap.

Strike

continued from page 3

was chosen as the bargaining agent by the cafeteria employees in a May vote conducted by the State Board of Labor Relations, charged that "the Board of Education has treated these women as third-class citizens for too long, with substandard wages, lousy fringe benefits, and now with a revamped cafeteria program which totally ignores the working conditions of the employees as well as the needs of the children."

"These are simple and reasonable requests in the face of the Board's totally unreasonable effort to wipe out the hours of these employees during the next school year. Furthermore, other towns with whom we have contracts run very successful cafeteria systems with similar contract protections for the workers."

"It will simply be impossible," Wilhelm said, "for the new satellite kitchen system to function the way the Board now proposes it. Food quality and freshness will be horrible, andthe work simply cannot be done under this setup."

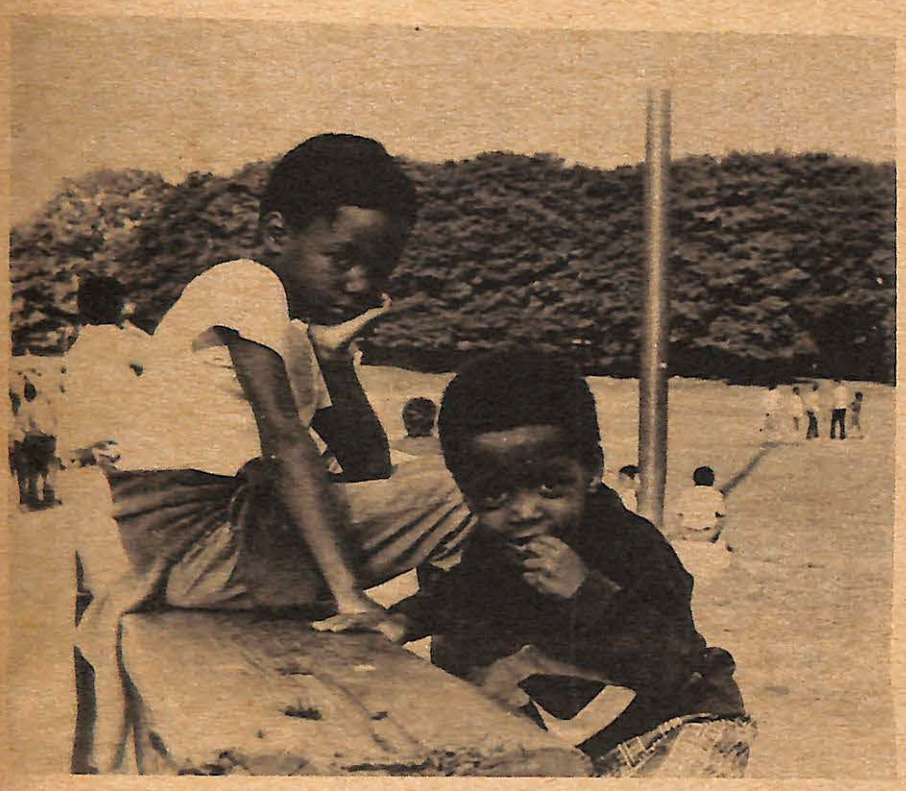
He appealed to the Board of Education to "come to its senses, realize these women are determined and united, and negotiate a fair contract."

People Beat The Heat At Beaver Pond Park

During the summer, most people take to the shore or to a relatives's place in the country to seek relief from the heat. The city however offers little to its inhabitants to ease the restlessness of living under a high sun.

At Beaver Pond Park, near Goffe St. and Sherman Ave., some people have found the answer to the summer blues. People come to the park to watch a softball game, to meet their friends, or just to relax. One person at these gathering who is always there is Ben Johnson; Ben has been selling ice cream in New Haven for thirty-five years. Another person who is there almost all of the time is Frank Newton; Frank claims to be one of the greatest softball pitchers around. *(Photographs by Dave Spinner and Ed Brueler).*

Ben Johnson is on the left with Frank Newton at his side.



Even if he is a bit young to play, the park is a good place for this boy to find amusement during the summer.

Players taking a break between innings.

Women's softball commands a large following at the park. The West Rock Royalettes, one of the best teams, sits back after victory.

On The Job — Midwife – An Old Job Revived

Dave Spinner

Donna Le Blanc and a co-worker consulting about a case.

Interview with Donna LeBlanc: Nurse-Midwife, Yale Health Plan

by Eileen Hoffman and Andy Esposito
Modern Times Staff

As a midwife, I care for a woman during pregnancy and assist her in the delivery of her child; as long as everything proceeds normally. I also follow her progress during the post-delivery period. In addition, I perform routine gynecological exams and counsel couples on sexual problems and on the use of contraceptives.

In all of these areas, I am interested in assisting a person in having a normal life experience. This differs from the orientation of a doctor whose training is geared toward the treatment of illness. Such interest, in normal life experiences, on the part of a midwife is easy to understand when it is realized that in this country, before you can become a nurse-midwife, you must first be a registered nurse and then undergo eight months to two years of graduate training.

Good Addition to Health Profession

Historically midwives have not been a normal part of U.S. medical practice. This is because in the 1930's, when doctors began to specialize, the field of obstetrics became a recognized specialty. Not only were doctors attemtping to build their own practices, and eliminate competition from non-M.D.'s, but they assumed that the care of pregnant women was poor because of midwives.

Some studies validated this point of view. In reality, care was poor because very little of it was given during pregnancy and, thus, problems which could have been anticipated were not. In addition, midwives of the period were not trained to *recognize complications if they arose.*

In contrast to the past the future for midwives appears bright. I believe there will be increasing numbers of people functioning as midwives because, as people become further educated concerning the kind and quality of the health care they should be receiving, more of them will seek the services of a nurse-midwife.

Complementary Relationship

Midwives don't function independently of doctors; rather they complement them. A complementary relationship is necessary since there are medical problems which a midwife is not equipped to handle and should be dealt with by a doctor. On the other hand, a midwife often establishes a stronger rapport with patients by helping them deal with everyday problems. Therefore, by working together, both doctors and midwives can contribute to a patient's care.

Doctors Skeptical At First

At first, it was difficult to establish this type of complementary relationship with the doctors I work with. They were initially skeptical regarding my knowledge and ability. In part this was because I am a woman and a nurse. This attitude is understandable because most doctors have had no experience in working with a nurse-midwife.

They felt they had to check every examination I performed and they feared I would attempt to treat some condition I knew nothing about. Gradually they developed more confidence in my clinical abilities. In addition, there has been a large amount of positive feedback from patients because I am really interested in them and try to teach them something about themselves.

Becoming deeply interested in a patient is the most exciting aspect of my job. I am able to follow someone through her entire pregnancy. It's exciting to see how her relationships to her baby and its father develop. It is very grati fying to help her have a satisfying experience.

Health System Needs Changes

Getting close to people has enabled me to see ways in which the health care delivery system in the U.S. can be improved.

Firstly, consumers are going to have to demand changes. Secondly, more people who are not doctors are going to be doing *things which doctors have traditionally done.* And thirdly, the method for paying for health care must be changed. With the increasing cost of living, preventive health care is usually the first item to be dropped from a family's budget. This is especially true of working people who are hard-pressed today just to feed and clothe their families. Therefore, the system must become more socialized because people can't afford to pay for the increasing cost of hospital care; much less afford preventive health care.

Craft Show

The Second Annual Craft Show, sponsored by the Middletown Chapter of Hadassah, will be held on Sunday, September 16, 1973 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Riverview Center in Middletown, which is located directly behind Sears Roebuck Company or right off Route 9.

We are expecting approximately 200 of the most well known craftsmen in New England and New York to display and sell their crafts, in the upper arcade of the Riverview Plaza and Shopping Arcade.

The festival committee is still accepting applications from artists and craftsmen. To obtain the prospectus containing more information please contact Mrs. Albert Goldenstein, 205 Old Mill Road, Middletown, Conn. 06457 or telephone (203) 246-3416.

PUBLIC ADMISSION IS FREE

Classified

Cooperative child care center seeking a person interested and experienced in coordinating program for young children and joining in collective work in day care politics. Long hours, subsistence pay, high reward. Contact: State Street Child Care Center c/o 50 Troiano Road, Hamden, Conn. 776-9572.

Wanted: Pint size canning jars ... need before all the crops come in. Call 562 - 9198 before October

Modern Times could use any old discarded typewriters you can't use or don't need anymore. Call 562 - 2510

So It Was in the Beginning, So It Is in the End

L. M. F.

A candle light vigil was held on Temple St., August 15, marking the end of American bombing operations over Southeast Asia.

There's Too Much Going On Not To Know About

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